

# American NEWS & VIEWS

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**May 13, 2005**

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## Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice On Respect for the Holy Koran

Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice  
On Respect for the Holy Koran  
Before the Senate Appropriations Subcommittee on State,  
Foreign Operations and Related Programs

May 12, 2005  
Washington, D.C.

Mr. Chairman, before I begin my actual testimony, I want to speak directly to Muslims in America and throughout the world. Disrespect for the Holy Koran is not now, nor has it ever been, nor will it ever be, tolerated by the United States. We honor the sacred books of all the world's great religions. Disrespect for the Holy Koran is abhorrent to us all.

There have been recent allegations about disrespect for the Holy Koran by interrogators at Guantanamo Bay and that has deeply offended many people. Our military authorities are investigating these allegations fully. If they are proven true, we will take appropriate action. Respect for the religious freedom of all individuals is one of the founding principles of the United States. The protection of a person's right to worship freely and without harassment is a principle that the government and the people of the United States take very seriously. Guaranteeing religious rights is of great personal importance to the President and to me.

During the past few days, we have heard from our Muslim friends around the world about their concerns on this matter. We understand and we share their concerns. Sadly, some people have lost their lives in violent demonstrations. I am asking that all our friends around the world reject incitement to violence by those who would mischaracterize our intentions.

Thank you very much, Mr. Chairman, and members of the committee.

### Transcript: Bush Calls for Passage of U.S.-Central American Trade Pact

*President outlines benefits to all parties from free trade*

The U.S.-Central American-Dominican Republic Free Trade Agreement (CAFTA) is the best way to achieve peace and prosperity for our hemisphere, says President Bush.

"By passing CAFTA, we would open up a market of 44 million consumers who already import more of our goods

and services than Australia or Brazil," Bush said May 12 at the White House. He spoke following a meeting with the presidents of the six other CAFTA nations.

President Abel Pacheco of Costa Rica, President Leonel Fernandez of the Dominican Republic, President Elias Antonio Saca of El Salvador, President Oscar Berger of Guatemala, President Ricardo Maduro of Honduras and President Enrique Bolanos of Nicaragua met with U.S. legislators in Washington during the past week to gather support for passage of the free-trade legislation.

"I assured them I will join in the efforts to get this bill passed," Bush said.

The president said CAFTA would bring new investment opportunities to Central America as well as provide Central American consumers with better access to U.S. goods.

Bush also outlined benefits for U.S. trade from CAFTA, which would include lower import tariffs in Central America for U.S. goods.

Following is a transcript of Bush's remarks:

THE WHITE HOUSE  
Office of the Press Secretary  
May 12, 2005

### STATEMENT BY THE PRESIDENT ON THE CENTRAL AMERICAN AND DOMINICAN REPUBLIC FREE TRADE AGREEMENT

The Rose Garden

THE PRESIDENT: Good morning; thank you for coming. Welcome to the White House, and welcome to the Rose Garden. I want to thank the six presidents who have joined me today. We've just had a constructive dialogue in the Cabinet Room about our mutual interests. Our mutual interests are prosperity for our people and peace in the region. I am honored to be here with six really fine leaders, people who have stood strong for democracy and who care deeply about the people of their nations.

We're here today, as well, because the best way to achieve peace and prosperity for our hemisphere is by strengthening democracy and continuing the economic transformation of Central America and the Dominican Republic. And all of us agree that the Central American and Dominican Republic Free Trade Agreement presents us with an historic opportunity to advance our common goals in an important part of our neighborhood.

CAFTA brings benefits to all sides. For the newly emerging democracies of Central America, CAFTA would bring new investment that means good jobs and higher labor standards for their workers. Central American consumers would have better access to more U.S. goods at better prices. And by passing this agreement, we would signal that the world's leading trading nation was committed to a closer partnership with countries in our own backyard, countries which share our values.

For American farmers, businesses, and workers, CAFTA would create a more level playing field. Under existing rules, most of Central America's exports already enter the United States duty-free. But our products still face hefty tariffs there. By passing CAFTA, we would open up a market of 44 million consumers who already import more of our goods and services than Australia or Brazil. And we would create incentives for factories to stay in Central America and use American materials rather than relocate to Asia, where they are more likely to use Asian materials.

Finally, for the Western hemisphere, CAFTA would bring the stability and security that can only come from freedom. Today, a part of the world that was once characterized by oppression and military dictatorship now sees its future in free elections and free trade. And we must not take these gains for granted. These are small nations, but they're making big and brave commitments, and America needs to continue to support them as they walk down the road of openness and accountability. By transforming our hemisphere into a powerful free-trade area, we will promote democratic governance, human rights, and economic liberty for everyone.

The United States was built on freedom -- and the more of it we have in our backyard, the freer and safer and more prosperous all of the Americas will be. I applaud these leaders for their vision. I thank them for working with members of Congress from both political parties to persuade those members about the importance of this piece of legislation. I assured them I will join in the efforts to get this bill passed. This bill is good for Central American countries; it is good for America.

I want to thank you all for being here. Que dios les bendiga.

### **Transcript: Rice Recaps President's Recent Trip to Europe**

*Secretary of state also discusses Middle East, North Korea in CNN interview*

Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice discussed President Bush's recent trip to Europe, the Middle East peace process,

Iraq and North Korea in a wide-ranging interview with CNN May 11 that also revealed some personal insights and experiences.

President Bush's May 6-10 trip to Latvia, the Netherlands, Russia and Georgia was "terrific," Rice said, citing the singing of the American national anthem by Georgians as for her the most exceptional moment.

Asked to explain the relationship between President Bush and Russian President Vladimir Putin, Rice said it is "first and foremost ... one of respect because whatever our differences, Russia is a great country and a great culture and it's a place that has made enormous progress over the last 15 or so years."

"Even when there's difficulty or a difference of opinion, it's always respectful and even friendly," she said of the Bush-Putin relationship.

The Middle East, Rice said, is the region of the world that is "at once most volatile and most hopeful." She added that "we at this particular moment perhaps have the best chance we've had in a long time for movement forward between the Palestinians and the Israelis toward a two-state solution."

Regarding Iraq, Rice predicted that "the Iraqis are going to turn out to be one of the strongest affirmations of the universal values of freedom and liberty."

When asked about U.S. public opinion polls showing concern about the war in Iraq, Rice responded that the Bush administration will continue "to talk to the American people constantly and consistently about what it is we're trying to do .... We have to talk about the great dramatic movement that is going on in democracy, and we have to make the case to the American people that we do know something from history: Democracies are more peaceful."

She added that democratization in Iraq and throughout the Middle East will contribute to security, stability and peace. "We're recognizing that over the years where we didn't speak out for democracy in the Middle East, we were not actually getting stability, we were getting a kind of malignancy underneath," she said.

Concerning North Korea and its nuclear weapons program, Rice reiterated that "this is a situation that is susceptible to diplomacy."

"The entire purpose here is to have a Korean peninsula that is nuclear weapons free," she said.

Rice also reiterated the U.S. commitment to the Six-Party Talks involving China, Russia, Japan, South Korea, North Korea and the United States.

"The strongest vehicle by which to deal with the North Korean nuclear program is with all of the parties sitting at the table who have an interest," she said.

"And if we remain united, I believe we can resolve this," she said.

On a more personal note, Rice also discussed her childhood in Alabama, her fondness for shopping and fashion, and her plans to return eventually to teaching.

Following is the State Department transcript:

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF STATE  
Office of the Spokesman  
May 11, 2005

#### INTERVIEW

Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice  
On CNN's Larry King Live

May 11, 2005

Washington, D.C.

MR. KING: Tonight, Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice in her first in-depth interview since taking the job just a little over a hundred days ago, next on Larry King Live.

We're in the Treaty Room at the State Department in Washington, D.C. This is the Harry S Truman Building and this is the first in-depth interview since she took this job. The Secretary of State of the United States, Condoleezza Rice. We're in the Treaty Room, as we said. We're sitting right by the picture of the first Secretary of State, a guy named Thomas Jefferson.

What does that feel like, you and he, same job?

SECRETARY RICE: Well, it's pretty extraordinary. Thomas Jefferson, of course, such a towering figure in American policy but also at a time when the march of democracy is the most important element of our foreign policy, someone who wrote eloquently about human rights, about the rights of man. One of my favorite quotes from Thomas Jefferson is, "The God who gave us life gave us liberty at the same time."

MR. KING: So you taught him, then, right? You would teach about him?

SECRETARY RICE: Well, absolutely. And but it reminds us too that this great defender of liberty, greater defender of democracy, that human beings are sometimes a little bit flawed. And, of course, he was a slave owner. And given that my ancestors, or some of them, were slaves, it's a sort of interesting juxtaposition.

MR. KING: No anger?

SECRETARY RICE: No, no. You have to recognize that the norms of the time were what they were. It only shows that human beings weren't perfect then. Human beings aren't perfect now. But what it says is that people like Jefferson and the other framers of the Constitution gave us institutions that understood that human beings were not perfect but gave us something to strive for, to get better every day. It gave us laws and institutions and principles to which a lot of impatient patriots, people like Frederick Douglass or Martin Luther King or Rosa Parks, a simple woman in the South, they could appeal to those principles and institutions over time to make us better.

MR. KING: The term "impatient patriot," what was the trip like? You just got back last night.

SECRETARY RICE: Just got back last night from Europe. It was a terrific trip. It was a trip in which the President was able to go to some of the new democracies. As an old Soviet specialist, Larry, to see these places that were literally behind the Iron Curtain just a couple of decades ago that are now, in the case of Latvia, a member of the European Union, a member of NATO, where democracy is vibrant; and for Georgia, to be in that square where you had 100,000 Georgians chanting the President's name and carrying American flags. And I'll tell you that for me the most exceptional moment, just a moment that gave me chills, was when they started to sing the American National Anthem with this Georgian accent and it was just -- it was so exciting to be there.

MR. KING: Oh, say, can you see.

SECRETARY RICE: Yeah, something like that. But it was a great moment.

MR. KING: Were you aware of the grenade?

SECRETARY RICE: I heard about it afterwards. Obviously, it's being investigated. I think that the Georgian security services are working with our services to see what happened. But it didn't disrupt in any way the flow of what was happening there and it was just very exciting to be on that square.

MR. KING: They have been critical of each other. How do you explain the Bush-Putin relationship?

SECRETARY RICE: The Bush-Putin relationship is one that first and foremost is one of respect because whatever our differences, Russia is a great country and a great culture and it's a place that has made enormous progress over the last 15 or so years. This is not the Soviet Union and one only had to be in Moscow this time or over the last several times to see how far this country has come. And so there is enormous respect.

I think that the President and President Putin clearly like each other. They have an easy way with each other.

MR. KING: Even when they're critical of each other?

SECRETARY RICE: Even when there's criticism. Even when there's difficulty or a difference of opinion, it's always respectful and even friendly. And, of course, they have such an easy relationship. I'll tell you though, when the President got into President Putin's vintage car to drive --

MR. KING: What was that like?

SECRETARY RICE: Well, we all held our breath but the President wasn't going to have to drive a stick shift or something like that. But it was a great -- a nice moment.

MR. KING: People may be -- are they wrongfully surprised at President Bush on the world stage?

SECRETARY RICE: Well --

MR. KING: He had been Governor of Texas and not traveled well.

SECRETARY RICE: Right, right. But this President has been through so much as President and he brought to the office certain characteristics that have served him well and have served us well as a country. I remember when I first met him as Governor of Texas and I thought --

MR. KING: You were at Stanford.

SECRETARY RICE: I was at Stanford. I had just recently left -- well, I had left the administration. This was in 1998. He had just become Governor of Texas. And he has such a sense of -- you have such a sense of conviction with him, that this is somebody who leads from principle, who leads from a deeply ingrained set of values. And when you are President of the United States there is so much going on around you and you're being told and asked to do so many things that if you don't have firm grounding in values then you're just like a will-o'-the-wisp and --

MR. KING: And you can take that anywhere.

SECRETARY RICE: And you can take the values anywhere. And going back to the relationship with President Putin, it's one of the reasons that you can have or the President can have a friendly relationship with President Putin, one that is respectful and where the President can still speak up for democracy.

MR. KING: Can you disagree with him openly?

SECRETARY RICE: Well, I can --

MR. KING: I mean, does he invite that?

SECRETARY RICE: Oh, absolutely. The President is someone who prods people to say, "Well, what do you think about that," and then to challenge you. It's something I very much enjoy.

Now, it's the kind of thing that I've always said the President and I will do privately. I hope to get out of this town and never have anyone know what I might have said to the President or not said to him. I owe him that.

MR. KING: Your predecessor, Colin Powell, told me though, "You win some and lose some." True?

SECRETARY RICE: Sure. Of course. And he is, after all, the President. He's the one that the American people elected. He's the one who went out and won their confidence.

MR. KING: Before we get to issues and things, what about this job, if anything, surprised you?

SECRETARY RICE: Well, I can't say that much surprised me. I'd been National Security Advisor. I had watched my great predecessor, Colin Powell, do this job with skill and aplomb. I think we were -- we're personally very close so I watched him up close and personal, so to speak, go through this job.

But it is a job that has a great deal of needing to make sure that the people who work for the United States of America in the diplomacy of the United States of America know that they are supported here by the President and by me. Larry, we very often think about our men and women in uniform and the dangerous and difficult job that they do, and their service is extraordinary in what they accomplish every day. We also have a lot of diplomats out there who are doing difficult work, dangerous work. There is a plaque downstairs that commemorates in memoriam to American diplomats who have died abroad. And so I try to remember every day that more than anything this is not



about policy, this is not about ideas, it's about people. Because the people who carry out American foreign policy, in some cases they may be the only American that someone in Georgia or someone in Sudan or someone in Colombia may meet, and so the people who represent the United States of America, that's really the strength of what we're doing.

MR. KING: Before we come back, the National Security Advisor and Secretary of State have often over the years had clashes. I wonder, wearing both those hats, what's that like. We'll be right back with the Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice. Don't go away.

MR. KING: We're back in the Treaty Room with the -- at the Secretary of State's -- this is your building?

SECRETARY RICE: No, no.

MR. KING: Well, she works here. With Condoleezza Rice, the Secretary of State of the United States, a little over a hundred days on the job. We always hear about natural clashes between state, security, defense.

SECRETARY RICE: Right.

MR. KING: When you wore two hats -- one or the other -- what's that like?

SECRETARY RICE: Well, National Security Advisor has a very special role, first of all as the principal daily advisor to the President of the United States, and the National Security Advisor has to be sure not to take advantage of that. You sit just down the hall from the President. You're a few steps from the President. The Secretary of State, the Secretary of Defense, are across Washington running great big operations and they have to have the confidence that the National Security Advisor is going to represent the views of everyone equally so that the President has the full range of advice.

And I tried to do that. I tried to be an honest broker. I think my successor, my good friend, Steve Hadley, is terrific at that. He is someone --

MR. KING: You get along?

SECRETARY RICE: Oh, absolutely. He's not only one of my closest colleagues, he's been a good, good friend over these years. And he is someone who is always going to make certain that the President has the full range of advice, not just his own views.

MR. KING: Now let's move to some issues. We'll skirt around. The Bolton nomination. Is there anything about his nomination that concerns you?

SECRETARY RICE: I just hope that we can get this nomination done, Larry. I understand the deliberative process of the Senate and they have a role to advice and consent. But we need our nominee at the UN so that we can engage in what is really a very important debate right now about UN reform, about the future role of the United Nations, an extremely important organization to us. John Bolton is eminently qualified for this job and I'm the one who talked to the President about having John do this job because --

MR. KING: You pushed it?

SECRETARY RICE: Absolutely. When we were looking for a UN Ambassador I thought that John, with whom I'd had a lot of experience in his diplomacy over the last four years, would be a strong voice at the UN. Yes, he's been critical of the United Nations from time to time but in some ways that is a great benefit because at a time when the UN is undergoing considerable discussion about reform, looking at what needs to be done, it's a good thing to have somebody who's thought both about the good and the bad at the UN.

MR. KING: How about stories of negative treatment of personnel?

SECRETARY RICE: Well, I can tell you that there are a lot of people who have worked for John Bolton who are inspired by him and who are intensely loyal to him. And John is hard-charging. There is no doubt about that. But he has been very successful in managing people. He's been very successful in his diplomacy. I expect that when John leads the mission at the UN that he's going to do it in a way that is respectful of the people who work for him and that he'll get the best out of them.

MR. KING: Do you think he learned from these hearings, too?

SECRETARY RICE: Well, we all learn from experiences like this. I learned from my own confirmation hearings. We've all learned.

MR. KING: You breezed, though.

SECRETARY RICE: Well, no, hardly, hardly. It was -- the confirmation hearing -- by the way, the confirmation process, even those of us who have to go through it, at the time it may not seem like something that you want to go through but it's a good process that we have of having you

to step back and look at issues, having you to step back and look at questions about what has transpired. And, of course, we all learn from those processes.

MR. KING: Do you expect him to get through?

SECRETARY RICE: I certainly do. I am very hopeful that when the Senate really considers what has been said --

MR. KING: Which could be any day now.

SECRETARY RICE: Right. And we -- there's a vote that's scheduled. When it's considered, I think that people will see that there is a very strong record here of achievement, a very strong record of leadership and that it should go forward. I certainly hope so.

MR. KING: How involved does the Secretary of State get? For example, would you call a senator?

SECRETARY RICE: Oh, of course.

MR. KING: You do? In other words, you lobby?

SECRETARY RICE: But I've talked -- I talk to people on the Foreign Relations Committee all the time about administration views, about how we see different issues, so it's not at all unusual that I talk fairly frequently to the senators. The Congress is a co-equal branch of government and they have an extraordinarily important role in foreign policy and there needs to be open communication between the Executive and the Legislature.

MR. KING: You said when you "get out of this town." Are you going to go back to academia?

SECRETARY RICE: Oh, I'm going to go back to academia. I'm going to go back to California, which is a place you love as well. You understand why.

MR. KING: You're not going to run for governor?

SECRETARY RICE: I really would like to go back to my life.

MR. KING: You do?

SECRETARY RICE: I do. I love being an academic. I love teaching. I love writing. And right now I'm concentrating on one of the most challenging jobs that I think you can possibly have at one of the most challenging times because we're in a historical period where, if we all do our work well, the United States could leave, this administration could leave, a future that is so much brighter, where democracy has marched forward, where we have made real

strides in the war on terrorism, where we have led the world in addressing questions of poverty and disease. This is a very exciting time to be Secretary of State but there is going to be a very exciting time to be a professor at Stanford again, too.

MR. KING: Any -- no one can be certain about everything and hindsight is easy. Any post doubts about Iraq?

SECRETARY RICE: Oh, I believe that Iraq is going to -- the Iraqis are going to turn out to be one of the strongest affirmations of the universal values of freedom and liberty.

MR. KING: So nobody died in vain?

SECRETARY RICE: No one -- no, absolutely not. In fact, the sad fact is that nothing of value is ever won without sacrifice. And we each, every one of us, I think most especially the President, mourn every single death because every life is precious. But it's been America's role in the world to defend freedom. It's been America's role in the world to create conditions in which freedom can move forward.

We were just in The Netherlands at the cemetery there, the Dutch American cemetery, to honor the service of those who 60 years ago helped to liberate Europe from fascism. We were last year at Normandy to celebrate and to honor the memories of those who -- young men who liberated a continent through the Normandy invasion.

It's been America's fate, America's role, America's obligation to help people who were in tyranny to be free, and Iraq is in that long line of --

MR. KING: Iraq's a liberation to you?

SECRETARY RICE: Iraq is a liberation, yes.

MR. KING: She's celebrating a little over a hundred days on the job. May 5th is the anniversary. The Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice.

The new United States Ambassador to Japan, Thomas Schieffer, says he believes North Korea has taken preparatory steps for a nuclear test. You said earlier this week the United States has no intention to attack or invade North Korea. President Bush once told me, "You never tip your hand." Were you tipping your hand there?

SECRETARY RICE: Oh, no, I think the North Koreans quite clearly understand that we have a strong deterrent on the Korean Peninsula with our strong relationship with South Korea, with our forces that are in the region. I don't think the North Koreans are confused about the United States

and our ability to deter any aggression that North Korea might be planning.

MR. KING: So why did you say that?

SECRETARY RICE: But the question is: Would we somehow wish to invade North Korea? Because the North Koreans, in their machine, their propaganda machine, very often tell the North Korean people that there is a plot to invade North Korea, that America wants to make war on North Korea. No, the United States wants a peaceful Korean Peninsula. We just want a Korean Peninsula -- like, by the way, the Chinese, the Russians, the Japanese, the South Koreans all want -- a Korean Peninsula in which there -- on which there are no nuclear weapons. And the reason that we have this problem is that North Korea has insisted on pursuing nuclear weapons programs and a nuclear weapon. And so the entire purpose here is to have a Korean Peninsula that is nuclear weapons free. That's what the problem is.

MR. KING: But under the -- if we use the concept of Iraq, wouldn't we go in to liberate them?

SECRETARY RICE: Well, I think you -- as you said, the President of the United States never takes his options off the table. But we believe that this is a situation that is susceptible to diplomacy because North Korea has neighbors that are unified in their view that North Korea should not have a nuclear weapon. Now, Iraq had for 12 years defied the international community. It had used weapons of mass destruction. People forget that Kurds and Iranians and others had suffered from actual use of weapons of mass destruction by the Iraqi regime.

And, Larry, I will be the first to say that North Korea is a terrible regime in terms of the treatment of its people, the starvation that they experience, the prison labor camps that are there, and we are -- we are going to shine a light on that. This President is never going to stop speaking out about the conditions of people who are trapped in grave circumstances or about the need for reform. But every situation is different and not every situation requires the use of military force.

MR. KING: If therefore diplomacy is the answer, would you meet with North Korean officials?

SECRETARY RICE: Well, we've had an experience of bilateral discussions with the North Koreans in 1994 and what happened is the North Koreans signed an agreement with us and then they went about violating it practically before the ink was dry. So there's no need to go back down that road. We do --

MR. KING: You would --

SECRETARY RICE: Well, we do meet with the North Koreans in the context of the six-party talks. We have talked to them in New York where they have representation. So it is not as if we are without contact with the North Koreans. But we believe that the strongest vehicle by which to deal with the North Korean nuclear program is with all of the parties sitting at the table who have an interest here. It doesn't mean that we don't talk to the North Koreans in the context of those talks.

MR. KING: Are you concerned or hopeful, or both?

SECRETARY RICE: Well, I'm, of course, concerned because the North Koreans continue to pursue this nuclear weapons program. But one has to just continue to work diplomatically and one has to continue to unify the international community around this goal. And if we remain united I believe we can resolve this.

MR. KING: Is it the spot in the world that worries you the most?

SECRETARY RICE: Well, one doesn't have to choose between difficult places in the world. Obviously, North Korea is an issue. I think the place that is at once most volatile and most hopeful is actually the Middle East because --

MR. KING: Volatile and hopeful.

SECRETARY RICE: Volatile and hopeful. It's got a history of a lot of violence, of course. But we at this particular moment, perhaps have the best chance that we've had in a long time for movement forward between the Palestinians and the Israelis toward a two-state solution that means a Palestinian state and an Israeli state living side by side. It would require what is already going on there -- the process of democratization in the Palestinian territories. They've had elections. They're going to have more elections. But Palestinians need to reform their security forces and make sure that they're fighting terrorism. But of course, the Israelis are going to leave the Gaza and withdraw from four settlements in the West Bank. This is an extraordinary moment.

MR. KING: Because of the leadership of both sides?

SECRETARY RICE: Yes. But I have to underscore the leadership of Prime Minister Sharon here because this man, who in many ways was the father of the settlement movement, has really now said that Israel and the Palestinians are going to have to share the land. And that's a very important fundamental place from which to



recognize the need for two states. And one, you just have to admire him for that kind of leadership.

MR. KING: Clearly, Yitzak Rabin-like.

SECRETARY RICE: That's a very, very admirable case of leadership.

MR. KING: We'll be right back with Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice. Don't go away. Thank you.

MR. KING: We're back at the State Department in Washington, D.C., the Harry S Truman Building with the Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice. What's the job of the Secretary of State or the Administration in selling its -- by that I mean, the polls say we're down on Iraq, the American public is not supportive. Is that your problem?

SECRETARY RICE: Well, it is important for the Secretary of State, for the President and for all of us to talk to the American people constantly and consistently about what it is we're trying to do because these are difficult times, Larry. Nobody likes to see the loss of life that we are experiencing and so we have to get out. We have to talk about the great dramatic movement that is going on in democracy and we have to make the case to the American people that we do know something from history: Democracies are more peaceful.

When you have a situation in which you have the spread of democracy in a place like the Middle East, then you're going to have a different channel for all of that hatred and venom, right now which is being channeled into terrorism, it's being channeled into people who fly airplanes into buildings on a fine September day. And we're recognizing that over the years where we didn't speak out for democracy in the Middle East, we were not actually getting stability, we were getting a kind of malignancy underneath. And we just -- we have to make that case.

MR. KING: Well, why hasn't it been made? What doesn't the American -- why doesn't the American public, in your opinion, get it?

SECRETARY RICE: Well, you know, I think actually the American public does understand this, Larry.

MR. KING: You think they're wrong?

SECRETARY RICE: Well, when you talk to people, when you look at what happened in the campaign where the President made this case, Americans I think are very proud of what we are doing in places like Iraq and Afghanistan, but it's hard. And I recognize the struggle that people have internally, that we all have internally about the fact that we

have lost life in order to move forward. But after September 11th, I think we recognized that we were going to have to have a different kind of Middle East in order to leave a permanent peace for our children.

MR. KING: Does public opinion affect you?

SECRETARY RICE: The President is determined to lead from values and from principle. He was elected by the American people not to read the polls on any given day, but to lead in the way that American presidents have led when they are at their best, and that is to speak out for America's role in the spread of democratic values and freedom and liberty understanding that when the world is freer we are more secure and when the world is less free we are more vulnerable. When you listen and we talk about the real threats out there today, you talk about a North Korea. Why do we worry so much about North Korea, this closed, non-transparent society with potentially a nuclear weapon?

When you look at the Middle East, the absence of democracy there that has led people to economies that are -- where 22 of them have a gross domestic product less than that of Spain and where anger and hatred is being fueled, so that we experience something like September 11th. If you contrast that with Europe now, where 60 years ago nobody would have said that Europe was going to be peaceful, but now where you have democracies throughout Europe, do we fear somehow war in Europe any longer? No. Do we fear Europe attacking us or using military force? No.

There is a clear link between the spread of democracy and our own security. And so that's what we have to keep our eyes on. And I know it's hard and I know that this is a generational struggle. But Americans have never gotten tired and quit early. That's not who we are. It took us a long time to get to a Europe in which the Soviet Union collapsed peacefully, in which we now can go and celebrate democracy in Georgia or Latvia. But the sacrifice was worth it because our people are much more secure and much freer.

MR. KING: What do you make, Madame Secretary, of violence as an answer? Well, we were born in violence, right? We had a --

SECRETARY RICE: Yes.

MR. KING: That fellow: "When in the course of human events."

SECRETARY RICE: Right, yes.

MR. KING: We have a Second Amendment. People can own guns.

SECRETARY RICE: Yes.

MR. KING: By the way, what do you think about gun control?

SECRETARY RICE: Well, Larry, I come out of a -- my own personal experiences in which in Birmingham, Alabama, my father and his friends defended our community in 1962 and 1963 against white nightriders by going to the head of the community, the head of the cul-de-sac, and sitting there armed. And so I'm very concerned about any abridgement of the Second Amendment. I'll tell you that I know that if Bull Connor had had lists of registered weapons, I don't think my father and his friends would have been sitting at the head of the community defending the community.

MR. KING: So you would not change the Second Amendment? You would not --

SECRETARY RICE: I also don't think we get to pick and choose in the Constitution. The Second Amendment is as important as the First Amendment of the --

MR. KING: But doesn't having the guns, while it's protection, also leads to people killing people?

SECRETARY RICE: Well, obviously, the sources of violence are many and we need to get at the sources of violence. Obviously, I'm very much in favor of things like background checks and, you know, and controlling at gun shows. And there are lots of things we can do. But we have to be very careful when we start abridging rights that our Founding Fathers thought very important. And on this one, I think that they understood that there might be circumstances that people like my father experienced in Birmingham, Alabama, when, in fact, the police weren't going to protect you.

MR. KING: Did you see him take the guns?

SECRETARY RICE: Oh, absolutely. Every night, he and his friends kind of organized a little brigade.

MR. KING: How old were you?

SECRETARY RICE: I was eight -- eight years old.

MR. KING: You remember that?

SECRETARY RICE: I remember it very, very well.

MR. KING: Did you understand it, as an eight-year-old why --

SECRETARY RICE: I understood that something was deeply wrong in Birmingham, Alabama, when I didn't have a white classmate until we moved to Denver, Colorado. I knew that these were separate societies. Our parents -- I grew up in a very nice, sheltered little middle-class community in Birmingham. My mother was a schoolteacher. My father was a minister and a high school guidance counselor. And I'm still friends with a lot of the kids from that community. And we recognize that we had very special circumstances.

Our parents told us, "All right, it may be that you can't have a hamburger at the Woolworth's lunch counter, and it may be that you can't go to this amusement park, Kiddieland, but don't worry, you can do anything you want. Your horizons should be limitless in America."

MR. KING: Did you believe that?

SECRETARY RICE: And we believed it.

MR. KING: Or as Dick Gregory once said, "Why would you want to eat a hamburger at the Woolworth counter?" We'll be right back with Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice. Don't go away.

MR. KING: We're back with the Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice. The job itself. Is it the travel? I mean, you have -- you couldn't do this -- or could you -- if you were married and with children?

SECRETARY RICE: Well, I think I would manage to do it if I were married with children. Other people manage to do it married with children.

MR. KING: Married with young children.

SECRETARY RICE: Well, I don't know. I've always said, Larry, my life turned out like I think it was supposed to turn out. And so I'm very happy doing this job. The travel is, right now, fun. I don't know how I'll be when I'm here a year from now with you, talking about -- whatever it'll be -- 465 days. Maybe a year from now I'll be tired of the travel, but I really love it. And I like getting out to different places. First of all, I like going to foreign countries or I wouldn't have been a specialist in foreign affairs.

Secondly, I like going out and representing the United States and talking to people about what we're trying to do. There's such excitement out there right now about the democracy agenda. There's such excitement about the fact that in places like Lebanon and Afghanistan, places that --

and Iraq, places that perhaps we never even thought would see democracy, that democracy is starting to bloom.

And then I like getting out and talking to our men and women in the field. We have a lot of fine Foreign Service, Civil Service people. One thing that's well -- not well understood is we have a lot of Foreign Service Nationals, that is, people who are citizens of the countries in which we are headquartered, who work for us. And many of them have worked for many, many years.

MR. KING: We pay them.

SECRETARY RICE: We do. And they are some of the most loyal and wonderful people, so I love getting out and seeing all of these people.

MR. KING: I've had other government officials tell me that the biggest mistake they made prior to going into government is critical -- being critical of government employees, bureaucrats and the like. They're generally very hardworking.

SECRETARY RICE: They are very hardworking people. The United States is very fortunate in our Civil Service, our Foreign Service, our military. We have people who, in many ways, give their lives to public service. They don't do it because it brings glory or because it brings money. They do it because they want to change the world.

And one of the exciting things about being Secretary of State right now is that when I talk to our people out in the field, I say, you know, I've taught people like you who went into the Foreign Service or the Civil Service because they wanted to change the world. And we have a chance to change the world for the better because this is really an historic moment. And people respond to that. These are hardworking, really dedicated patriots.

MR. KING: Is there a lot of red tape on the job?

SECRETARY RICE: Well, there's a fair amount of red tape in it. But I was in a university. There's a fair amount of red tape in universities, too. There's no reason to be frustrated.

MR. KING: Mostly you -- as I read about your travels, you meet with heads of state.

SECRETARY RICE: Yes.

MR. KING: Aren't you supposed to meet with foreign ministers?

SECRETARY RICE: Well, I have excellent foreign minister colleagues and people, you know, people to whom I'm

particularly close, like the British Foreign Secretary Jack Straw or my colleagues in -- I had a wonderful experience recently when I went to Latin America. I flew from Colombia to the Communities of Democracy in Chile with a wonderful woman, who is the Foreign Minister of Colombia, Foreign Minister Barco, and then flew back to El Salvador with the Foreign Minister of El Salvador. So I have some great colleagues among the foreign ministers, but it is also very nice that when I go to places, heads of state have been willing to spend time with me.

MR. KING: What did you think of the Blair reelection?

SECRETARY RICE: Well, the British -- British elections are very interesting. They're pretty intense because they're short. But Prime Minister Blair is someone who has also stood on principle and he has understood and has communicated, I think, so well that the great democracies -- those of us who are lucky enough to live on the right side of freedom's divide -- have an obligation to those who are on the wrong side of freedom's divide. And I've often heard him talk about the fact that had people abandoned Great Britain in its hour of need, Britain would not be free today. And so whether it is Iraq or Afghanistan, he's been a real stalwart for freedom.

MR. KING: But also had trouble selling it.

SECRETARY RICE: Well, I think "selling it" is the wrong word. These are complicated issues and it is hard because these struggles are hard. And people feel the intense loss of life and see the violence and that's hard. What leaders have to do and what the President has done -- President Bush -- and what Prime Minister Blair has done so well is to keep reminding us of what the horizon looks like.

You know, we've had struggles in this country. I've often wondered, in the darkest hours of the Civil War, what people were saying to Abraham Lincoln about whether this was going to turn out all right. Or when George Washington lost New York. Were there people who were saying, "You know, that Declaration of Independence, that was maybe not such a great idea after all"?

MR. KING: Good point.

SECRETARY RICE: So these great historical changes are always hard. They are almost always violent. But if you do your work well, in the long run, they are almost always worth it.

MR. KING: I think 95 percent of the American press was against Lincoln.

SECRETARY RICE: Interesting.

MR. KING: The perception that the United States is pushing this, that we are the, as one phrase called it in the paper, the "revolution export service," that we're -- you will be democracies.

SECRETARY RICE: I just find it extremely patronizing to assume that people don't want to be free and they only will look at freedom if the United States somehow pushes it. You know, you have to impose tyranny. You don't impose democracy.

If you ask people, "Do you want to be able to say what you think? Do you want to worship as you please? Do you want to be able to educate your boys and girls? Do you want to be free from the arbitrary knock of the secret police at night?" people across the globe -- I don't care what culture they come from, I don't care what language they speak, what religion they espouse, or how literate or illiterate they are -- people know deep in their souls that that is the height of human dignity.

And we saw it, Larry. We saw it when Afghans went out to vote in huge numbers along dusty roads. I've been to Afghanistan. There are few paved roads in Afghanistan. They walked for miles to vote. In Iraq, where they faced down terrorists, who literally told them if they voted they would die, and they still voted. Where they've gone into the streets in Lebanon. Where they went into the streets in Ukraine and in Georgia. Who are we to assume that somehow there are people on some corner of the earth that don't want the human dignity that comes freedom and liberty?

MR. KING: And who are the suicide bombers? Don't they want freedom?

SECRETARY RICE: The suicide bombers, in a place like Iraq, are people -- many of them are the same people who were oppressing their fellow Iraqis under Saddam Hussein.

MR. KING: They're oppressors.

SECRETARY RICE: And who would like to have a return to the bad old days of Saddam Hussein's rule, or they are terrorists, like Zarqawi, who want to impose their own view of a great religion, which by the way is a perversion of Islam, that would take people back to a time when women were in bondage, to a time when only one very narrow view of religion was tolerated. That's who the suicide bombers are. That's who the people who are killing, by the way, innocent Iraqis who simply want a better life.

MR. KING: And they totally believe this. They are -- that it's their distorted view of a religion?

SECRETARY RICE: Well, it is clearly a distorted view of religion because Islam is a great and peaceful religion. And it is a religion that we in the United States respect fully. The fastest growing -- one of the fastest growing religions in the United States is Islam. And if you go to almost any community in many of our cities, you will see mosques and you will see that people who practice this great religion are a part of America's great democracy. That's the way that it should be and I would hope, if anything is understood, that America, which values religious diversity, values this great religion that is Islam.

MR. KING: What's with the skirt and the boots?

SECRETARY RICE: It was cold in Germany. I lived in Colorado a good bit of time; you put on boots. Larry, ever since I was a little girl, I liked to shop. Okay? There, I've said it.

MR. KING: You're kidding.

SECRETARY RICE: No, no. My mother and I -- well, my father was, as I said, a minister and so my father would go to work on his sermons on Saturday morning and my mother and I would head downtown to go shopping.

MR. KING: And boots was the thing?

SECRETARY RICE: Well, not in Alabama but certainly in Colorado.

MR. KING: But did you think you would get the kind of press that got, the picture all over the world?

SECRETARY RICE: No, no, of course not. In fact, somebody said to me, "You know, your picture is on the front page of The Washington Post," and I thought, "Well, what did I do now?" I guess I wore boots. I guess that's what it was.

MR. KING: You didn't think of it?

SECRETARY RICE: No, of course not.

MR. KING: Does it mean you would not do it again?

SECRETARY RICE: No, of course not. I'll wear whatever I'm comfortable wearing.

MR. KING: Your own private life. Did you ever, you know, want to get married, want to have children, wanted that "mom-ism"?

SECRETARY RICE: Well, my view is that you don't get married in the abstract; you get married to some one. And so --



MR. KING: You haven't met him?

SECRETARY RICE: No. I haven't. It doesn't mean that it won't happen someday. But I'm a deeply religious person and my life has, I think, unfolded as it was supposed to. I have certainly no complaints about the way that it has unfolded. I had extraordinarily loving parents who just believed in me and told me I could do anything and gave me every opportunity to do whatever I wanted to do. I have, to this day, a wonderful family. I sometimes read I have no family. I have -- you know, in the South, and particularly in African American families, extended families are really important. And I have aunts and uncles and cousins who are really, really close to me and marvelous friends and friends who go back to every stage in my life, from the time I was a kid, in college and graduate school. It's terrific.

MR. KING: But you're open to Mr. Right? If Mr. Right comes along?

SECRETARY RICE: I don't have time right now, but sure, who wouldn't be?

MR. KING: Did life go the way you want it to?

SECRETARY RICE: Life has unfolded, for me, in ways that I absolutely love.

MR. KING: You think you're lucky?

SECRETARY RICE: I think I'm blessed.

MR. KING: Better word. Do you ever doubt your faith?

SECRETARY RICE: I have -- I can honestly say I've never doubted the existence of God. Like all people of faith who think, I have had questions from time to time. And one of the great contributions that my father made to me -- my father was a theologian -- is that he let me have those questions. And I can remember from the time I was a very young kid debating with him about the Bible and debating about this aspect of Jesus' life or that aspect of the Apostle Paul and therefore wanting to read more and wanting to understand more. And he gave me a great gift there because he never made me feel that my faith and my intellect were at war with one another. He always made me believe and let me believe that God gave you a brain and he expects you to use it.

MR. KING: Even after 9/11?

SECRETARY RICE: Especially after 9/11. I think after 9/11, we all needed our faith very, very strongly. I remember in the days immediately after, there wasn't much

left except to pray. And again, I remember Abraham Lincoln saying that there are times when you have to get on your knees because your intellect won't fully explain. And whether it was 9/11, or in my case the deaths of my parents, my faith has always come through for me.

MR. KING: Thank you, Madame Secretary.

SECRETARY RICE: Thank you.

MR. KING: It was good seeing you again.

SECRETARY RICE: Thank you.

MR. KING: The Secretary of State from the Treaty Room of the State Department, Condoleezza Rice.

### **Transcript: U.S. Urges Nepal To Respect Human Rights While Combating Rebels**

*State's Rocca says U.S. backs peace, prosperity, democracy for Nepal*

The United States urges the Nepalese government to release all political detainees, restore civil liberties and reach out to legitimate political leaders in an effort to fight Maoist insurgents and build peace and prosperity, according to Assistant Secretary of State for South Asia Christina Rocca.

In a speech on Nepal-U.S. relations delivered in Kathmandu, Nepal, May 10, Rocca said the U.S. goals for Nepal are peace, prosperity, and democracy with protections for civil liberties and human rights.

She said the United States welcomes recent steps by the Nepalese government to lift the three-month-old state of emergency, release detained political leaders, and allow the United Nations Human Rights Office to start operations in the country.

She added that respect for human rights by Nepalese authorities will be a key factor in U.S. engagement with Nepal.

"An important focus of our engagement with the government of Nepal and its security services will remain the critical need for increased respect for human rights. We continue to check on military units to ensure that none implicated in human rights violations receives U.S. assistance. We have made it clear to the government that we expect to see appropriate, timely and transparent investigations of any credible allegations of abuse and that failure to do so could jeopardize our ability to continue assistance," she said.



Following is the transcript of Rocca's speech:

Christina Rocca, Assistant Secretary for South Asia  
Organized Jointly by the Institute of Foreign Affairs and the  
American Center  
Hotel Yak And Yeti, Kathmandu, Nepal

Remarks at the Talk Program on "Nepal-U.S. Relations  
Today"

Mr. Pandey, Dr. Lohani, distinguished guests:

I am very happy that I was able to come to Nepal at the right time to participate in this talk program and to inaugurate the invigorated American Library now located in the West Wing of this building. It has been a year since my last visit to Nepal. Much has changed, but the fundamental crisis confronting Nepal remains the same. I am meeting with many government officials, politicians, media, and members of civil society during my short visit to discuss both these changes, and how Nepal can best cope with its political and developmental problems.

The United States has considered itself a close friend of Nepal since diplomatic relations were first established in 1947. In 1951, our economic assistance and Fulbright programs began here. Our total development assistance over the years amounts to 400 million dollars. Our security assistance over the past four years, including a one-time appropriation of 12 million dollars in 2002, amounts to 22 million dollars overall. In 1952, the first American library was opened by the then U.S. Information Service. In 1962, the Peace Corps program was established in Nepal. I am very happy to say that all programs continue to flourish - with the exception of the Peace Corps, which had to suspend operations last October due to security concerns. And I hope that the Peace Corps will be able to resume operations as soon as that is feasible.

American development assistance to Nepal has increased dramatically over the past two years, jumping from \$24 million to \$42 million annually. Over half of this increased amount -- \$23 million -- is earmarked for basic health programs - from the Vitamin A program that saves the lives of 25,000 children each year to HIV/AIDS awareness and prevention. Other projects involve support for democratic institution building, such as judicial reform programs, anti-trafficking, generating employment and income opportunities in rural areas to promote peace, facilitating agricultural market development, and last but not least, hydropower development.

However, our assistance activities, together with the efforts of other international donors, are now at risk from a brutal Maoist insurgency. The Maoists have made clear their

intention to impose a one-party "people's republic," collectivize agriculture, "reeducate" so-called class enemies, and export their revolution to neighboring states. We feel that such a regime would almost certainly threaten stability in the region. Much if not all of the progress that the United States and others have helped Nepal accomplish in terms of both development and democratization would be negated.

In my visits to Nepal I have taken the opportunity to make sure that the government was aware of our support for their efforts to counter the Maoists. The United States has a strong interest in helping the people of Nepal overcome this threat and deal with the country's serious developmental problems. Our goals for Nepal can be put quite simply: we want Nepal to be a peaceful, prosperous and democratic country where civil liberties and human rights are protected.

The United States and other friends of Nepal have long believed it is essential for Nepal's legitimate political leaders to resolve the longstanding political impasse that has prevented a united effort to confront the two dangers facing Nepal - the Maoist insurgency and underdevelopment. The key to accomplishing this is for the legitimate political parties and the King to unite in a multi-party democratic framework in order to confront the Maoists and address the country's serious developmental problems. Over the past several years we have encouraged political party leaders and the King to follow this course. We will continue to stress this message to the King and to all political forces. We continue to believe that the events of February 1 were a serious setback to accomplishing this objective.

While we welcome the steps taken by His Majesty's Government to lift the State of Emergency and release political leaders, we remain concerned about the reports of continuing repression of civil liberties and additional arrests. We continue to urge the government of Nepal to release all political detainees, restore civil liberties, and reach out in a pro-active manner to the political parties. At the same time, we urge the political parties to work together and with the government. Their recent announcement of a united front is an encouraging first step in this process. But the need of the hour is reconciliation: to develop and follow a joint roadmap to deal with the Maoists and work for a peaceful, prosperous, and Nepal.

We remain concerned about the widespread suffering of the Nepali people as a result of the Maoist insurgency, from abuses and atrocities by Maoists and also through human rights abuses by government security forces. The recent Government agreement to allow a UN Human Rights Office to begin operations in Nepal is a good first step, and

we expect there will be full cooperation with the Office. An important focus of our engagement with the government of Nepal and its security services will remain the critical need for increased respect for human rights. We continue to check on military units to ensure that none implicated in human rights violations receives U.S. assistance. We have made it clear to the Government that we expect to see appropriate, timely and transparent investigations of any credible allegations of abuse and that failure to do so could jeopardize our ability to continue assistance.

The United States intends to continue our close relationship with Nepal and build trade, investments, and tourism. We will gladly work with all legitimate forces to make this a reality. The American people and their representatives in Congress take Nepal's best interests to heart and watch developments closely. We in the Executive Branch have to be able to tell them there is political will among all the legitimate political elements to make progress toward peace and the restoration of a true multi-party democracy, including elections at the earliest possible time.

Thank you.

#### **U.S. Will Enforce Machine-Readable Passport Requirement June 26**

*Document will be needed by Visa Waiver Program travelers*

The U.S. Department of Homeland Security has announced that effective June 26 all Visa Waiver Program travelers will have to present a machine-readable passport (MRP) for visa-free entry into the United States, but it says the requirement will affect only about 0.35 percent of travelers currently entering the United States under the program.

The Visa Waiver Program (VWP) enables citizens of 27 countries to visit the United States for tourism or trade for up to 90 days without obtaining visas.

Speaking May 12 at the Foreign Press Center in Washington, Elaine Dezenski, the department's acting assistant secretary for border and transportation security policy, announced that on June 26 DHS will end an "interim procedure" to assist VWP travelers which has allowed immigration officials to grant a one-time waiver for entry into the United States to VWP travelers without MRPs.

All VWP travelers will need a machine-readable passport to enter the United States without a visa from that date on, and carriers will be fined \$3,300 for transporting any VWP traveler to the United States without a MRP, Dezenski said.

The U.S. Congress originally set October 1, 2003, as the date by which VWP travelers would need to present a MRP in

order to enter the United States without a visa, but that deadline was postponed for 23 of the 27 VWP countries until October 26, 2004. Homeland Security's "interim procedure" has been in effect since that date, Dezenski said.

"VWP travelers arriving in the U.S. on that date [June 26] without a MRP should not anticipate being granted one-time entry into the country [without a visa]," she said.

Over the past six months, an average of about 147 travelers per day from VWP countries have attempted to enter the United States without a machine-readable document -- about 0.35 percent of the total visa-waiver travelers entering the United States, she said. "So it is a very small percentage."

All VWP countries have programs in place to issue MRPs, and more than 42,000 VWP visitors enter the United States every day with MRPs, she said. The U.S. government first issued MRPs in 1981.

"But the reality is 147 people is still too many, and we want to make sure that we get that number as close to zero as possible," the official said.

The highest percentage of VWP travelers without MRPs come from France, the United Kingdom, Italy, Norway and Japan, she said.

Dezenski said the U.S. government has engaged in an ongoing effort to inform possible VWP travelers of the congressionally mandated requirement to present a MRP for visa-free entry into the United States.

"The U. S. government is deeply committed to working with our international partners to secure our borders while continuing to welcome legitimate foreign travelers and trade," she said.

She and Randy Beardsworth, the department's acting under secretary for border and transportation security, agree that MRPs will expedite the entrance process to the United States.

"The machine-readable passport benefits foreign visitors as much as it does homeland security," said Beardsworth in a May 12 press release. "With one fast swipe, front line officers can pull up the information that they need to process legitimate travelers quickly. At the same time, this immediate information access enables our officers to focus even more on identifying and interdicting potential threats."

Machine-readable passports include two optical-character, typeface lines at the bottom of the biographic page of the

passport that, when read, deters fraud and helps confirm the passport holder's identity quickly. (See sample image of a machine-readable passport.)

Visa Waiver travelers who are not in possession of machine-readable passports may apply for a nonimmigrant visa at a U.S. Embassy or consulate abroad if seeking entry for business or tourist visits to the United States. Information on the Visa Waiver Program and how to apply for a U.S. visa is available at [www.travel.state.gov](http://www.travel.state.gov) and [www.unitedstatesvisas.gov](http://www.unitedstatesvisas.gov).

"You have two options -- you can either obtain a passport that has a machine-readable function, or you could certainly apply for a visa," Dezenski said.

The following 27 countries are currently in the VWP: Andorra, Austria, Australia, Belgium, Brunei, Denmark, Finland, France, Germany, Iceland, Ireland, Italy, Japan, Liechtenstein, Luxembourg, Monaco, Netherlands, New Zealand, Norway, Portugal, San Marino, Singapore, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland and the United Kingdom.

DHS said the machine-readable passport requirements do not affect the separate congressionally mandated deadline requiring VWP country passports issued on or after October 26, 2005, to contain biometrics in order to be used for visa-free travel to the United States. See also, "Congressional Panel Chair Urges Biometric Passport Deadline Be Met"

"All of the VWP countries are working very closely with us to communicate information about these new requirements to all of their citizens," Dezenski said.

"We hope to see the number of [VWP] travelers without MRPs reduced even more between now and June 26... and we will continue to work with our international partners to educate the public about this new requirement," she said.

Following are the texts of a DHS press release, a DHS "Frequently Asked Questions" document, and a State Department media note on the announcement:

U.S. Department of Homeland Security  
Press Release  
Office of the Press Secretary

Machine Readable Passports Required For All Visa Waiver Program Travel as of June 26, 2005

The Department of Homeland Security (DHS) today reminded travelers from 27 Visa Waiver Program (VWP) countries that as of June 26, 2005, they must have a

machine-readable passport to enter the United States without a visa, as mandated by Congress. Machine-readable passports have a sequence of lines that can be swiped by U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP) officers to confirm the passport holder's identity quickly and to obtain other information about the holder typically found on a passport's inside cover.

The Immigration and Nationality Act originally set October 1, 2003 as the date by which VWP travelers needed to present a machine-readable passport. At the request of 23 of the 27 VWP countries, the United States postponed that requirement until October 26, 2004, for those requesting countries. For a limited period, DHS has been authorizing a one-time waiver for entry into the country for VWP travelers without a machine-readable passport, at no charge to the traveler. This limited period will end on June 26, 2005. Beginning June 26, 2005, transportation carriers will be fined \$3,300, per violation, for transporting any VWP traveler to the United States without a machine-readable passport. Similarly, VWP travelers arriving in the United States on that date without a machine-readable passport should not anticipate being granted one-time entry into the country.

"The machine-readable passport benefits foreign visitors as much as it does homeland security," said Randy Beardsworth, Acting Under Secretary for Border and Transportation Security. "With one fast swipe, front line officers can pull up the information that they need to process legitimate travelers quickly. At the same time, this immediate information access enables our officers to focus even more on identifying and interdicting potential threats."

Since October 26, 2004, CBP officers have notified VWP travelers entering the United States with a letter explaining the new entry requirements. In addition, VWP countries are working closely with the United States Government to communicate information about these new requirements to their citizens. Anyone from the 27 VWP countries thinking of traveling to the United States is encouraged to check with their passport issuing authority to ensure they are in possession of a machine-readable passport. As an alternative for persons with immediate travel plans who are unable to obtain a machine-readable passport in time, the individual may apply for a U.S. visa at a U.S. Consulate or Embassy abroad.

The 27 countries participating in the VWP include: Andorra, Australia, Austria, Belgium, Brunei, Denmark, Finland, France, Germany, Iceland, Ireland, Italy, Japan, Liechtenstein, Luxembourg, Monaco, the Netherlands, New Zealand, Norway, Portugal, San Marino, Singapore, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, and the United

Kingdom. Any traveler from these 27 countries will need a machine-readable passport on June 26, 2005 to enter the United States. Last year, approximately 15 million VWP travelers visited the United States.

The machine-readable passport requirements do not affect the separate congressionally mandated deadline requiring VWP country passports issued on or after October 26, 2005, to contain biometrics in order to be used for visa free travel to the United States.

U.S. Department of Homeland Security  
Press Office

#### Frequently Asked Questions

##### What is the Visa Waiver Program?

If you are a national from a Visa Waiver Program-designated country, you are allowed to apply for admission to the United States for ninety (90) days or less as a nonimmigrant visitor for business or pleasure without first obtaining a U.S. nonimmigrant visa.

##### What are the Visa Waiver Program countries?

Andorra, Australia, Austria, Belgium, Brunei, Denmark, Finland, France, Germany, Iceland, Ireland, Italy, Japan, Liechtenstein, Luxembourg, Monaco, the Netherlands, New Zealand, Norway, Portugal, San Marino, Singapore, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, and the United Kingdom.

##### How do I know if I have a machine-readable passport?

Machine-readable passports have a sequence of lines that can be swiped by U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP) officers to quickly confirm the passport holder's identity and obtain other information about the holder typically found on a passport's inside cover. You may obtain information as to whether your passport is machine-readable at your country's nearest Consulate or Embassy or passport-issuing office.

What happens if I am applying for admission under the Visa Waiver Program, but I don't have a machine-readable passport by June 26, 2004?

Since October 26, 2004, CBP has granted, on a case-by-case basis, a one-time parole for Visa Waiver Program applicants who apply for admission and are not in possession of an MRP. This policy will continue until June 26, 2005. On that date, if VWP travelers are not in possession of a machine-readable passport, they should not anticipate to be permitted to board an aircraft or cruise ship

and if VWP travelers arrive at a U.S. port of entry, they may be denied admission to the United States.

##### Is it going to cost me anything for the parole?

At the present time, there is no fee for parole granted in these circumstances. After June 26, 2005, if you are not in possession of a machine-readable passport, you will likely not be permitted to board an aircraft or cruise ship and if you do arrive at a U.S. port of entry, you may be denied admission to the United States. Individuals without machine-readable

passports who are granted parole after that date will be charged the usual parole fee of \$65.

##### Is there any alternative to me getting a machine-readable passport?

As an alternative, you may apply for a nonimmigrant visa from a U.S. Consulate or Embassy abroad.

If I am applying for admission under the Visa Waiver Program and I am granted a parole for not having a machine-readable passport, what will happen if I return to the United States on a subsequent visit without a machine-readable passport or a nonimmigrant visa?

If you apply for admission in the future without the required machine-readable passport or without a nonimmigrant visa, you will be denied entry to the United States and may be detained until removed.

If I am applying for admission under the Visa Waiver Program and I am granted a parole, can I make a side-trip to Canada, Mexico, or adjacent islands?

If you travel to Canada or Mexico or the adjacent islands as part of this trip to the United States, you may be found inadmissible upon your reentry, despite the period of parole on your I-94, as parole authorization terminates upon your departure from the United States.

Does this policy apply to the Guam Visa Waiver Program?  
No.

Prior to June 26, 2005, will the parole procedures be available to all Visa Waiver Program travelers?

No, the parole procedures will be available to nationals of twenty-two (22) designated Visa Waiver Program countries.

The designated countries are: Australia, Austria, Denmark, Finland, France, Germany, Iceland, Ireland, Italy, Japan, Luxembourg, Monaco, the Netherlands, New Zealand,



Norway, Portugal, San Marino, Singapore, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, and the United Kingdom.

As of October 1, 2003, nationals of the following four countries were required to present an MRP for admission under the VWP: Andorra, Brunei, Liechtenstein, and Slovenia. CBP will continue to recognize that effective date and the current parole procedures will not affect that policy.

As of May 16, 2003, nationals of Belgium were required to present an MRP for admission under the VWP. CBP will continue to recognize that effective date and the current parole procedures will not affect that policy.

I am applying under the Visa Waiver Program and my child is listed on my machine-readable passport. Will my child be affected by this new policy?

Yes, each VWP applicant must now present an individual passport. Families must have individual machine-readable passports for everyone, including children.

I understand that the biometric requirement for Visa Waiver Program country passports was extended to October 26, 2005, did that also extend the requirement for all Visa Waiver Program applicants to present an MRP upon admission into the United States?

No. Although Congress has extended until October 26, 2005, the biometric requirement for Visa Waiver Program country passports, it did not extend the requirement that all Visa Waiver Program applicants present an MRP upon admission into the United States. Travelers presenting themselves for admission under the Visa Waiver Program are required to have a machine-readable passport.

I intend to travel for vacation to the United States arriving at the Miami International Airport. I then intend to board a cruise vessel for a Caribbean trip. After reviewing my itinerary I have discovered that the cruise vessel will be departing for foreign destinations and making multiple entries at U.S. ports. Will my parole status be affected by this multiple entries at different U.S. ports?

At this time, travelers who apply for admission at an airport with a non machine-readable passport for the purpose of departing on a cruise that makes multiple stops at various U.S. ports may be considered again for parole at several locations to complete their trip if they can establish continuous travel from the arrival to cruise and return.

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF STATE  
Office of the Spokesman

#### MEDIA NOTE

Machine-Readable Passport Requirements To Take Effect at U.S. Borders on June 26, 2005

The Department of Homeland Security today announced that as of June 26, 2005, all persons traveling under the auspices of the Visa Waiver Program (VWP) must present a machine-readable passport (MRP) to travel to the United States without a visa.

The Immigration and Nationality Act originally set October 1, 2003 as the date by which Visa Waiver Program travelers were required to present a machine-readable passport for visa-free travel to the United States. Twenty-three of the 27 Visa Waiver Program countries requested and were granted a postponement to October 26, 2004 of this requirement. The countries not requesting this postponement were Andorra, Brunei, Liechtenstein, and Slovenia. Nationals of those four countries have been required to present a machine-readable passport for visa-free travel since October 1, 2003. Belgian nationals traveling under the auspices of the Visa Waiver Program have been required to present a machine-readable passport since May 15, 2003.

For a limited period that started on October 26, 2004, the Department of Homeland Security has provided immigration inspectors at U.S. borders and ports of entry the authority to grant a one-time entry at no charge for Visa Waiver travelers arriving without a machine-readable passport. This limited period will end on June 26, 2005. Starting on that date, transportation carriers will be fined \$3,300 per violation for transporting any Visa Waiver traveler to the U.S. without a machine-readable passport.

The Department of State has been working closely with Visa Waiver Program countries to communicate information about the machine-readable passport requirement to their citizens. Since October 26, 2004, Department of Homeland Security Customs and Border Protection officers have been notifying Visa Waiver travelers entering the United States with a letter explaining the machine-readable passport requirements.

Machine-readable passports include two optical-character, typeface lines at the bottom of the biographic page of the passport that, when read, deters fraud and helps confirm the passport holder's identity quickly. A sample image of a machine-readable passport may be found at [http://www.travel.state.gov/visa/temp/without/without\\_1990.html#4](http://www.travel.state.gov/visa/temp/without/without_1990.html#4).



Visa Waiver travelers who are not in possession of machine-readable passport may also apply for a nonimmigrant visa at a U.S. embassy or consulate abroad if seeking entry for business or tourist visits to the United States. Information on the Visa Waiver Program and how to apply for a U.S. visa is available at [www.travel.state.gov](http://www.travel.state.gov) and [www.unitedstatesvisas.gov](http://www.unitedstatesvisas.gov).

The machine-readable passport requirements do not affect the separate deadline requiring Visa Waiver Program country passports issued on or after October 26, 2005, to contain biometrics in order to be used for visa-free travel to the United States.

### **Bolton Nomination to U.N. Post Sent to Full Senate**

*Senate committee makes no recommendation*

By Rebecca Ford Mitchell

Washington File Staff Writer

Washington -- In a straight party-line vote May 12, the Senate Foreign Relations committee voted 10-8 to send John Bolton's nomination as U.S. ambassador to the United Nations to the full Senate for a vote but without a recommendation.

Committee hearings on presidential nominations usually result in a favorable recommendation or a rejection of the nominee, but, in this case, Senator George Voinovich, an Ohio Republican, broke ranks with his party, saying that although he believed Bolton to be "a decent man," he did not believe the nominee was the best choice to be "the face of the United States to the world community in the United Nations."

He then requested a motion of "nomination without recommendation" so that he could join with other Republicans on the committee to bring the nomination to the entire Senate for consideration. Senator Richard Lugar, chairman of the committee, agreed to do so to avoid a 9-9 tie, which would have defeated a motion for a favorable recommendation.

Voinovich indicated he would urge the full Senate to defeat the nomination. "It is my concern," he said, "that the confirmation of John Bolton would send a contradictory and negative message to the world community about U.S. intentions. I'm afraid that his confirmation will tell the world that we're not dedicated to repairing our relationship or working as a team, but that we believe only someone with sharp elbows can deal properly with the international community."

Bolton has the strong support of President Bush and Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice, who has called him

"eminently qualified." The nominee has held several high posts within a variety of government departments, most recently as under secretary of state for arms control and international security, and has been confirmed by the Senate on four previous occasions.

During these confirmation hearings, however, witnesses came forward with complaints about Bolton's brusque behavior toward subordinates and attempts to intimidate analysts who did not agree with his own assessment of intelligence reports. These allegations and Bolton's own critical statements of the United Nations allowed Democrats to delay a vote that had been scheduled in April to allow for further investigation.

During today's debate, the Republicans presented a point-by-point rebuttal of the charges, maintaining that none of them disqualified Bolton for the U.N. job. They stated their belief that his attitude toward acknowledged problems at the world body would lead to effective reform. They also cited Bolton's many successes in international work, including getting more than 60 nations to express support for the Proliferation Security Initiative, which is intended to prevent illicit trafficking of weapons of mass destruction, and helping in the effort that saw Libya give up its nuclear weapons program.

Democrats, while agreeing that U.N. reforms are important, said questions about Bolton's behavior and judgment meant he would not have the credibility needed to bring about reforms nor to make the case on U.S. concerns to the Security Council.

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